about because otherwise the banks would have been under run. The NRIs had threatened that they would withdraw their deposits. So, part (c) of my question is whether the devaluation was resorted to because the Government of India was under duress from non-resident Indians and also that it was under duress because of the World Bank conditionalities for getting the loan.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: I would like to answer the last part of the question first. We were not under duress from anybody then and we are not under duress now. This was a sensible decision to do in the circumstances in which our country was placed and is now. Therefore, I don't have to bow to the IMF or to anybody else to do what is in the best interest of the country.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Prime Minister said yesterday that the banks would have been under run if devaluation was not done. What have you to comment on that?

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: The Prime Minister was mentioning the objective conditions prevailing then and what we did was a response mechanism which stopped those types of destabilising activities becoming a flood. This is not a question of functioning under duress at all.

The first part of the question is: will devaluation lead to increase in export? The hon. Member has referred to several previous instances. Let me say that in this country there seems to be strange conspiracy between the extreme right and the extreme left that there is something immoral or dishonourable about changing the exchange rate. But that is not the tradition. If you look at the whole history of India's independence struggle before 1947, all our national leaders were fighting against the British against keeping the exchange rate of the Rupee unduly high. Why did the British keep the exchange rate of the Rupee unduly high? It was so because they wanted this country to remain backward and they did not want this country to industrialise. They wanted the country to be exporter of primary products against which all Indian economists protested. If you look at the Indian history right from 1900 onwards to 1947, this is a recurring plea of all Indian economists not to have an exchange rate which is so high that India cannot export, that India cannot industrialise. But I am really surprised that something which is meant to encourage the country's exports, encourage its industrialisation is now considered as something anti-national.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Minister's statement is not in agreement with the statement made by the Prime Minister. His statement is at variance with the statement made by the Prime Minister yesterday in the House.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Negotiation of a sum of dollar 200 million with foreign banks

*44. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the caretaker Government had negotiated with foreign banks in June 1991 for a loan of 200 million dollars;

(b) if so, what were the terms and conditions of the loan;

(c) whether any of our national assets had been sold/mortgaged; and

(d) if so, what were the compelling circumstances to act in that manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) (i) The Union Government has leased 20 MT of confiscated gold held in Government account to the State Bank of

India as per agreement dated May 16, 1991. In turn, the State Bank of India has entered into a sale transaction with re-purchase option with the Union Bank of Switzerland as per agreement dated May 18, 1991.

(ii) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently (4th, 7th and 11th July, 1991) transported a total of 34.8 MT of gold to the Bank of England against which the Reserve Bank of India can borrow.

(iii) Subsequently, (10th and 11th July), RBI has borrowed an amount equivalent to Rs. 572.3 crores against the collateral of a part of gold currently kept in Bank of England.

(d) The leasing of gold held in Government account to the State Bank of India and raising foreign exchange against gold held by the Reserve Bank of India are extraordinary measures taken, in the context of serious balance of payments situation. These measures are thus a part of the foreign exchange reserves management strategy which is aimed at maintaining a level of reserves perceived as reasonable in international financial community and ensuring, at all times, that India is in a position to maintain its perfect and unblemished record of meeting all international obligations.

Refusal to treat a women suffering from AIDS

*45. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "AIIMS doctors ditch AIDS Woman" as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 3rd July, 1991;

(b) whether the AIIMS authorities refused to provide medical assistance to the lady who was AIDS infected;

(c) whether Government propose to probe into the incident; and

(d) if so, what further action Government propose to take against the doctors who refused to provide medical assistance to the lady?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (d) Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "AIIMS doctors ditch AIDS Woman" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 3-7-1991.

2. The Patient who was pregnant and HIV (Human Immuno Deficiency Virus) infected was first admitted in AIIMS on 24-5-1991 and had been receiving medical attention on a continuing basis. She was again admitted on 27-6-1991 and Dr. S. Kumar, Retired Addl. Professor of obstatrics and Gynaecology of AIIMS conducted the delivery which took place on 30-6-1991.

The Government has instituted a high level inquiry associating experts to examine the facts and circumstances under which it became necessary to seek the assistance of Dr. S. Kumar, for handling the delivery case and to review arrangements for dealing with AIDS/HIV positive cases in all the 13 hospitals including AIIMS specially identified for this purpose.

Admission to studentst of vocational classes

*46. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that students of vocational section who passed Delhi Senior Certificate Examination, 1991 (with English, Hindi Elective, Accountancy, Banking III, Commercial Practice and Banking-IV) and have obtained 65 per cent marks are not getting admission in Delhi Colleges;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any guidelines are proposed to be issued by Government to ensure the